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ABSTRACT

In its second year the project continued to attempt to reduce the incidence of separation of Indian children from their families and to establish permanent planning for those children who were removed, thus improving the child welfare services to Minnesota Chippewa Indian children and families on the Leech Lake Reservation through direct foster care services and staff and resource development. Most of the achievements of 1976-77 were maintained or increased in the second year, 1977-78, when the project achieved its goals in the area of direct child welfare services by: returning 84% (26) of involved Indian children to Indian environments: placing 42% (13) permanently: establishing plans leading to a return home, adoption, or long term foster care for 58% (18): and improving the hierarchical placement status of 42% of the 31 children involved. The program expanded its resources by licensing seven new Indian foster homes and five new Indian adoptive homes. Staff development during the year focused on training Native American and county staff and on increasing their joint consultation regarding Indian children. Project results point to the conclusion that Native Americans are able to implement, maintain, improve on, and expand social services to meet their people's needs. (SB)

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FINAL REPORT

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Leech Lake American Indian Foster Care Project

1978

Funded by the Administration for Children, Youth & Families (DHEW) Grant 90-C-997.

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This report was developed by Walker and Associates from data supplied by the project staff.

MAR 2 1 1980

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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Second Year

PURPOSE

During its second year of existence, the purpose of the Leech Lake American Indian Foster Care Project remained the same -

> To improve the quality of child welfare services to Minnesota Chippewa Indian children and their families on the Leech Lake Reservation through resource development, staff development and direct foster care services, under the direction of tribal government, in order to reduce the incidence of separation of Indian children from their families and establish permanent planning for those children who are removed.

FOLLOW-UP AND EXPANSION

Throughout the second year of the project, all the children and families served during the first year of the project were assessed to determine their current status. (A Follow-Up Report is featured in the following pages.)

- Project staff also followed up on the gains achieved during the second project year.
- The second year of the project was a time of expansion.
- A total of 31 new cases were served by the project.
- The project extended it's services into two new counties.
- Efforts spent on the recruitment of Native American foster homes expanded to include the recruitment of adoptive homes.
- Money became available allowing for the addition of one more staff position.

RESULTS

The project was very successful in achieving its objectives during the second year.

- By the end of the project, 84% of the Indian children were in Indian environments.
- 42% of the children were permanently placed in homes, with no further moves anticipated. Another 58% of the children have plans that lead to returning home, adoption or long term foster care.
- 42% of the children improved their heirarchical placement status.
- Seven new Indian foster homes and 5 new Indian adoptive homes were licensed during the second project year, substantially increasing the resources available to project staff to place Native American children in their own community and cultural settings.

IMPACT

All the data gathered during the second year of the project supports the following conclusion -

> Native Americans, when responsible for their own social services, are able to implement, maintain, follow-up on and expand services to meet the needs of their people.

A SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S BACKGROUND

RESEARCH

A study of foster care practices in the State of Minnesota, conducted by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, revealed that Native American children were being placed in foster care programs at a rate 500% greater than that of white children in Minnesota.

It was also learned that Cass County, which is responsible for foster care services on the Leech Lake Reservations, had 72 children in foster care homes; 42 (58%) of whom were American Indian children. The rate of placement of Indian children away from their own homes was approximately 10 times greater than that of white children in the county.

It was evident that Native American children were being frequently placed in non-Indian foster homes that removed them from their heritage.

A lack of Native American caseworkers further complicated an already existing sociological catastrophe.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The primary question which the project was designed to address was this: "Can American Indian staff, operating under the supervision of tribal government and within the context of child welfare standards as adopted by the State of Minnesota, effectively reduce the incidence of American Indian foster placement? The project was designed to establish an Native American family service delivery system, staffed and supervised by American Indians under the theory that the use of American Indian professional and para-professional workers could substantially reduce the number of American Indian children being removed from their families. Where removal is unavoidable, it would be the purpose of the project to endeavor to place American Indian children with Indian families, and to strive to develop strengths needed within the children's natural families to allow the children to return to them.

PRIMARY SERVICE OBJECTIVES FOR THE PROJECT

The project has four primary service objectives:

1. To develop a plan for each child in foster care, with steps leading to permanent placement.

2. To return Native American children to their own families, or to obtain permanent foster care or adoptive placement for them.

3. To place American Indian children with American Indian foster homes if removal is necessary.

4. To develop a Native American staff with capacity for working with foster families and children in foster care, and to train county welfare staff in the use of American Indian professional and paraprofessionals as the principal resources in working with American Indian families.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE EVALUATION MODEL

Framework for the evaluation system was developed during December, 1976 with the assistance of Walker and Associates, Inc., Minneapolis, a private evaluation consultant firm.

Following is a description of the evaluation system designed for the Leech Lake Foster Care Project, and an explanation of each of the system elements.

INFLUENCERS

The first page of the system begins with a listing of project "influencers". These are organizations and groups of individuals who have an impact on the project, its activities, and its purposes. Influencers for this project include:

Minnesota Department of Public Welfare
Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Division of Social Services
Cass County Department of Social Services
Project Advisory Committee
Traditional Tribal Leaders

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission or Purpose Statement indicates WHO is to be served by the project, SERVICES to be provided, and RESULTS to be achieved. According to this statement, the project BENEFICIARIES are Indian children and their families. SERVICES include: Resource Development, Staff Development, and the provision of Direct Foster Care Services. GOAL of the project is: To improve the quality of child welfare services to Indian children and their families, in order to reduce the incidence of separation of Indian children from their families, and establish permanent planning for those children who are removed.

PROJECT CLIENTELE

Identified as "Members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, residing on the Leech Lake Reservation or accepted for services by the Reservation Business Committee".

GOALS

The project was identified as having three programs or areas of focus:

Staff Development
Direct Child Welfare Services
Resource Development

OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

Specific objectives and measures were identified for each program. The objectives served to identify the specific focus of each program. Criteria used in developing the objectives required that they be specifically stated in behavioral terms so that they would be measurable.

A SUMMARY OF THE FIRST PROJECT YEAR

Funding for the project began in September, 1976. The first seven months of the project were beset with start-up problems that were unanticipated.

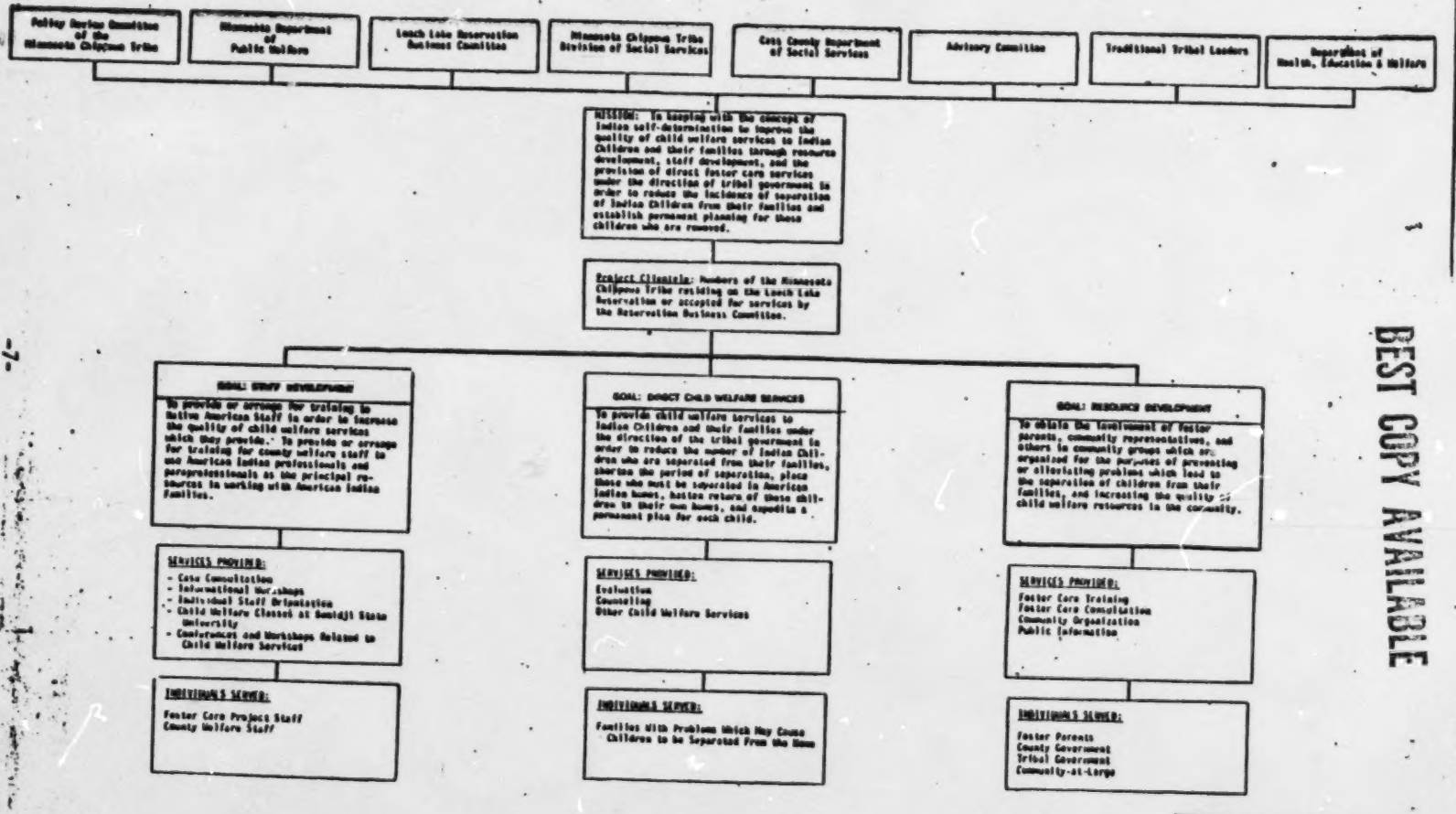
Misunderstandings regarding project administration, personality clashes and political battles for control created an unstable and fairly non-productive situation. Once these issues were resolved, the staff was able to show remarkable results:

- 91% of the children in the project were placed in permanent homes or were about to enter permanent homes.
- At the end of the project's first year, 56% of the children were in Native American environments.
- Eight new Indian foster care homes were licensed during the project year. (A detailed Summary of the first project year may be found in Final Report - Year One.)

An issue that permeated the first project year was that of jurisdiction. Minnesota statutes grant sole responsibility and funding for all social services to Indians on reservations to the county of residence.

Therefore, project and county staff, of necessity, shared project cases with project staff assuming most of the responsibility for the cases by the end of the first project year. Nevertheless, final jurisdiction remained with the county.

LEECH LAKE AMERICAN INDIAN FOSTER CARE PROJECT
CASS LAKE, MINNESOTA


Policy Review Committee of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
Minnesota Department of Public Welfare
Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Division of Social Services
Cass County Department of Social Services
Advisory Committee
Traditional Tribal Leaders
Department of Health, Education & Welfare
MISSION: In keeping with the concept of Indian self-determination to improve the quality of child welfare services to Indian Children and their families through resource development, staff development, and the provision of direct foster care services under the direction of tribal government in order to reduce the incidence of separation of Indian Children from their families and establish permanent planning for those children who are removed.
Project Clientele: Members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe residing on the Leech Lake Reservation or accepted for services by the Reservation Business Committee.
GOAL: STAFF DEVELOPMENT
To provide or arrange for training to Native American Staff in order to increase the quality of child welfare services which they provide. To provide or arrange for training for county welfare staff to use American Indian professionals and paraprofessionals as the principal resources in working with American Indian Families.
SERVICES PROVIDED:
- Case Consultation
- Informational Workshops
- Individual Staff Orientation
- Child Welfare Classes at Bemidji State University
- Conferences and Workshops Related to Child Welfare Services
INDIVIDUALS SERVED:
Foster Care Project Staff
County Welfare Staff
GOAL: DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES
To provide child welfare services to Indian Children and their families under the direction of the tribal government in order to reduce the number of Indian Children who are separated from their families, shorten the period of separation, place those who must be separated in American Indian homes, hasten return of these children to their own homes, and expedite a permanent plan for each child.
SERVICES PROVIDED:
Evaluation
Counseling
Other Child Welfare Services
INDIVIDUALS SERVED:
Families With Problems Which May Cause Children to be Separated From the Home
GOAL: RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
To obtain the involvement of foster parents, community representatives, and others in community groups which are organized for the purposes of preventing or alleviating problems which lead to the separation of children from their families, and increasing the quality of child welfare resources in the community.
SERVICES PROVIDED:
Foster Care Training
Foster Care Consultation
Community Organization
Public Information
INDIVIDUALS SERVED:
Foster Parents
County Government
Tribal Government
Community-at-Large

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DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

LEECH LAKE AMERICAN INDIAN FOSTER CARE PROJECT
CASS LAKE, MINNESOTA

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	WHO APPLIED TO	TIME OF MEASURE	DATA SOURCE	OBTAINED BY
1. Maximize placement in relatives homes or licensed Indian foster homes.	Number and percent of children separated from families who are placed in relatives home or licensed Indian foster homes.	All Indian children for whom separation from families is necessary.	At placement	Project staff	Data Coordinator
2. Maximize the number of voluntary placement.[3]	Total number of voluntary placements.	All children who are separated from their families.	60 days after case is opened (by date of plan)	Case Records	Data Coordinator
3. Maximize number of children for whom a plan[4] is made and implemented.[5]	Total number for whom a plan is implemented.	All children either in hi-risk[6] or already in foster care.	60 days after case is opened (by date of plan)	Case Records	Data Coordinator
4. Obtain permanent living situation status.[7]	Total number who obtain permanent living situation status including those returned to own home.	All children who obtain permanent living situation status.	At time permanent status is obtained	Project staff	Data Coordinator
5. Improve child's placement situation.	Number of children who move to higher step on placement hierarchy.[8]	All children who are separated from their families.	Quarterly	Project staff	Data Coordinator
6. Minimize frequency of moves.	Number of children who have been in three or more temporary placements to same or lesser status since October 1, 1976.	All children separated from their families.	At project termination	Case Records	Data Coordinator
7. Minimize length[9] of time.[9]	Average number of days children are separated from their families.	All children in foster care.	60 days following return to own home	Project staff	Data Coordinator
8. Maximize reduction of high risk cases.[6]	Number of cases removed from high risk file because situation causing risk has been improved or eliminated.	Cases in high risk file.	Quarterly	Case Records	Data Coordinator
9. Maximize separation of siblings.	Number and percent of placements in which siblings are not separated.	All cases in which siblings are removed from their home.	Quarterly	Project staff	Data Coordinator

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J. FRAZIA
FINAL
June 1977

Definitions:

1- Separation - Any placement of the child out of his natural or adoption home.

2- Families - Including real or adoption families.

3- Voluntary placements - Placements which do not involve legal custody or termination of parental rights.

4- Plan - Written plan with steps leading to return home or permanent placement.

5- Implemented - Some steps have been taken as outlined in plan.

6- Hi-risk - File has been established on child or family indicating that foster care services may be needed in the near future.

7- Permanent Placement Situation Status - Child is placed in adoptive home or permanent foster home or own home with no further moves anticipated.

8- Placement Hierarchy:
a. Own home
b. Indian adoptive home
c. White adoptive home
d. Independent living situation
e. Relative placement
f. Indian foster care
g. White foster care
h. Indian group home
i. White group home
j. Indian institution
k. White institution

9- Length of time - Time from separation from family or permanent living situation to permanent placement.

PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS:

(At close of project characteristics below would be tallied for Group A - those returned to own homes or permanent placements and Group B - those still in Foster Care)

1- AGE
- a- Number of children of each age
- b- Number of males under 13
- c- Number of males over 13
- d- Number of females under 13
- e- Number of females over 13

2- Average length of time in foster care

3- Number from single parent families

4- Reasons for Separation
- a- Voluntary placement
- b- Alcoholism
- c- Neglect
- d- Abuse
- e- Delinquency
- f- Truancy
- g- Parents' Incarceration
- h- Other

5- Number from each geographic region:
- -Region A: Walker-Onigum
- -Region B: Cass Lake
- -Region C: Bena
- -Region D: Ball Club
- -Region E: Inger
- -Region F: Squaw Lake
- -Region G: Federal Dam

SUPPLEMENTAL MEASURES:

1- Number placed in each category of placement hierarchy.
- a. Own home
- b. Indian adoptive home
- c. White adoptive home
- d. Independent living situation
- e. Relative placement
- f. Indian foster care
- g. White foster care
- h. Indian group home
- i. White group home
- j. Indian institution
- k. White institution

2- Average number of moves - all cases

3- Number of re-placements
(those who were placed previously into permanent homes - now returned to foster care)

4- Number voluntary placements in each category
- a. Protective supervision
- b. Legal custody
- c. Termination of parental rights
- d. Voluntary placement

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RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

LEECH LAKE AMERICAN INDIAN FOSTER CARE PROJECT
CASS LAKE, MINNESOTA

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	WHO APPLIED TO	TIME OF MEASURE	DATA SOURCE	OBTAINED BY
1. Obtain new Indian Foster Homes	Number of new, licensed Indian Foster Care Homes.	New licensed Indian Foster Homes	Quarterly	Community Organizer	Project Director
2. Maximize participation in Foster Parents Association	Number of of foster homes which are represented in Foster Parents Association by individual(s) who join the organization and attend at least one other meeting.	Present and Prospective Indian Foster Parents	Quarterly	Community Organizer	Project Director
3. Maximize participation in Family Development Committee by appropriate Native American Representatives.	Number of representatives[2] who attend at least 2 of 3 meetings of Family Development Committee each quarter.	Representatives who are invited to participate on Family Development Committee	Quarterly	Community Organizer	Project Director
4. Maximize utilization[3] of community resources by project staff.	Number of cases in which any of the following resources is used: -Courts -Health Dept. -Mental Health Center -C.A.P. -Employment Service -Chemical Dependency -Vocational Rehabilitation -Public Health Service -Other	All cases	Quarterly	Community Organizer	Project Director
5. Maximize participation in foster care training sessions.[4]	Number of foster homes represented by one or both parents at training sessions.	All foster homes	Quarterly	Community Organizer	Project Director
6. Maximize appropriate representation on Advisory Committee.	Number of invited representatives who participate.[5]	All representatives invited to serve on Advisory Committee.	Quarterly	Community Organizer	Project Director
7. Maximize acceptance of the Project by the Indian Community.	Percent of cases where referral came directly from the community to the project staff.	All referrals to Project.	Quarterly	Case Records	Project Director
8.					
9.					
10.					

DEFINITIONS:

1- Prospective Foster Parents - Those who are licensed, or who have indicated interest in applying for a license.

2- Family Development Committee Representatives - Persons designated that can delegate representatives from each organization would be counted.

3- Utilization - Referral and follow-up contact.

4- Foster Care Training Sessions - May be formal or informally conducted, but must be pre-designated by project staff as a training session, and present and prospective foster parents must be notified of their availability.

5- Participate - Regularly attend scheduled meetings.

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JUNE 1977

SUPPLEMENTAL MEASURES

1- Number of Emergency Home Resources available to children:
- a- Age 0-6 Years
- b- Age 6-12 Years
- c- Age 13-18 Years

2- Number of Foster Home Resources available to children:
- a- Age 0-5 Years
- b- Age 6-12 Years
- c- Age 13-18 Years

3- At each meeting of Foster Parents Associations:
- a- Number of present foster parents attending
- b- Number of prospective foster parents attending

4- Percent of community organizations represented on Family Development Committee

5- Number of cases referred to each of the following community resources:
- a- County Welfare Department
- b- Health Department
- c- Mental Health Center
- d- Employment Service
- e- Courts
- f- Community Action Program
- g- Community Health Representatives
- h- Chemical Dependency
- i- BIA
- j- Public Health Service
- k- Other

6- Number of requests for community presentations - note where requests are from

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FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS OF THE STABILITY OF RESULTS OF THE PROJECT'S FIRST YEAR

During the first project year the project was plagued with a number of problems, not the least of which was staff turnover. Because of this, the bulk of project's work was accomplished during the last four months of the first year project. Consequently, when the first year project report was written, most of the placements were newly made, and one could legitimately question whether the project should properly be given credit for them since they could not really be considered stable.

The question of results stability appears even more pertinent when one notes that the first year results were remarkably high: of the 43 cases served during 1977, 39 or 91% were either placed in permanent homes or about to enter permanent homes. It would appear that, over time, there would be some regression in these figures.

Mindful of this, the project, reviewed the first year cases at the end of the second year to determine what changes had taken place which would affect overall project results. Incredibly, not only were all the children who were placed in permanent living situations (30) still in those situations, but permanent situations were found for two more children in the first year target group; bringing the total in permanent situations to 41, or 95%!

A total of ten objectives and measures of the first year were re-evaluated at the end of the second year of the project.

FOLLOW-UP

EVALUATION OF 1976-1977 CASES (PROJECT'S FIRST YEAR) AFTER THE PROJECT'S SECOND YEAR 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
1. Maximize placement of Indian children in Indian environments.	Number and percent of children separated from families who are placed in Indian environments.	All cases (N=43) 24 children in Indian environments. (56%) 19 children in non-Indian environment. (44%) These figures have stayed the same.	Total: 24 (56%)	Relatives homes (8 indiv. or 19%) Indian Foster Homes (6 indiv. or 14%) Returned home (8 indiv. or 19%) Indian Adoptive Homes (1 or 2%) Indian Group homes (1 or 2%) Own home-5 children (shows change from first year evaluation. 3 children re-entered Foster Care System.) Indian Adoptive Homes-4 children (3 more children since end of project's first year.) White Adoptive Homes -5 children Independent Living Situation-2 children Indian Relative placement - 8 children (stayed the same) Indian Foster Care -5 children (one less child after first yr.) White Foster Care -12 children White Group Home - 1 child White Institution - 1 child

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EVALUATION OF 1976-1977 CASES (PROJECT'S FIRST YEAR) AFTER PROJECT'S SECOND YEAR 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
2. Maximize the number of voluntary placements. * Rationale: Voluntary placements are desirable because they indicate that parents were involved in the decision; they also make it easier for the child to be returned home.	Total number of voluntary placements.	All children N=43 cases	1976-77 results: 100% (3 entered the project voluntarily. 1977-78 results: 33%	2 individuals that entered the project voluntarily during the project's first year were returned home, but re-entered Foster Care system and project during the project's second year. 1 individual returned home and remained there.

* Voluntary Placements - Placements which do not involve legal custody or termination of parental rights.

EVALUATION OF 1976-1977 CASES (PROJECT'S FIRST YEAR) AFTER THE PROJECT'S SECOND YEAR 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
3. Maximize the number of children for whom a plan is made and implemented. * Rationale: It was determined that many children remained in limbo simply because there was no long range plan for them. The Project focused on developing a plan for each child with steps to permanent placement. As a result of developing these plans many of the steps identified were also taken during the project year.	Total number for whom a plan is implemented.	All cases	1976-77 91% 1977-78 95%	95% or 41 children have defined and inplemented plans after second year period. 5% or 2 children are categorized as in independent living situation as no plan could be developed with or for them. They are living independently although according to state law they should not be doing so.

* Plan - Written plan with steps leading to return home or permanent placement.

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EVALUATION OF 1976-1977 CASES (PROJECT'S FIRST YEAR) AFTER THE PROJECT'S SECOND YEAR 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
4. Obtain permanent living situation status. * Rationale: Many children who were in foster homes lacked security because, although the homes were stable, there was no real assurance of permanency. The project endeavored to obtain a permanent living situation status for these children. In some instances, for example, staff helped the foster parents reach the decision to adopt the children; or to agree to serve as permanent foster parents.	Total number who obtain permanent living situation status including those who returned to own home.	N=43 cases	91% (39 individuals) as of 1976-1977 95% (41 individuals) as of 1977-1978	41 individuals have placements with no moves anticipated 2 individuals have plans in process where a move is anticipated toward (1) return home or adoption and (2) long term foster care.

* Permanent Living Situation - Child is placed in adoptive homes, permanent foster home, or own home with no further moves anticipated.

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EVALUATION OF 1976-1977 CASES (PROJECT'S FIRST YEAR) AFTER THE PROJECT'S SECOND YEAR 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
5. Improve child's placement situation. Rationale: In order to identify the types of preferred placements, the placement heirarchy was developed. At the top is return to own home, the most ideal situation. At the bottom is White institution, the least desirable placement. Independent living situation appears fourth from the top on the heirarchy because, in most instances the children being served by the project would benefit more from being adopted or return to their own home than they would by establishing an independent living situation. It should be noted that this heirarchy is a way of identifying group placement goals. For a particular individual, a move downward on the heirarchy may be a positive move.	Number of children who move to a higher step on placement heirarchy. Placement Heirarchy: Own Home Indian Adoptive home White Adoptive home Independent living situation Relative placement Indian Foster Care White Foster Care Indian Group home White Group home Indian Institution White Institution	All cases (N = 43)	1976-77 44% or 19 individuals 1977-1978 32% or 14 individuals	14 individuals moved up on the heirarchy: 2 independent living from foster care 4 Indian adoptive homes from Indian foster care 5 White adoptive homes from White foster care 1 White group home from White institution 2 returned home from foster care 5 children moved down on heirarchy during 2nd year 3 Indian foster care from own home 1 White foster care from Indian foster home 1 White foster home from own home

EVALUATION OF 1976-1977 CASES (PROJECT'S FIRST YEAR) AFTER THE PROJECT'S SECOND YEAR 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
6. Minimize frequency of moves. Rationale: Frequent moves spell insecurity to children, and may cause a number of problems. The project wanted to make every effort to stabilize each child's situation to prevent frequent moves.	Number of children who have been in three or more temporary placements to same or lesser status since October 1, 1976.	All those who moved during project year. N = 43 cases	1977-1978 one child moved for a third time.	1976-77 none of the 13 individuals who moved during project year moved three times to same or lesser status. 1977-78 two of the above 13 individuals moved during project year. One moved a third time to same or lesser status.

EVALUATION OF 1976-1977 CASES (PROJECT'S FIRST YEAR) AFTER THE PROJECT'S SECOND YEAR 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
7. Minimize length of limbo. Rationale: Once separation of a child from his home becomes necessary, services must begin to "repair" the situation which necessitated the separation so that the child can return to his home. It is desirable to minimize the length of this separation to spare the child trauma. (Note that project workers could be held accountable for minimizing separation time only for those children who were removed from their homes during the project year.)	Average number of days children are separated from their families.	All children who entered the foster care system and project during the project year.	9 months was the average length of limbo for those entering the project, 1976-77	3 children entered foster care system and the project: One child was in limbo 2 months, then returned home. This child re-entered the foster care system and the project during the project's second year. One child was in limbo for 6 months, then returned home. This child remains at home. One child was in foster care for 7 months. This child re-entered the foster care system and the project during the project's second year.

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EVALUATION OF 1976-1977 CASES (PROJECT'S FIRST YEAR) AFTER THE PROJECT'S SECOND YEAR 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
8. Maximize reduction of high risk cases. Rationale: For the purposes of this project it was decided to define "high risk cases" as those requiring immediate attention because the child was in physical or psychological danger (had run away, was being abused, etc.). This measure is sensitive to the immediacy with which the worker acted, and the effectiveness of the services provided.	Number of cases removed from high risk file because situation causing risk has been improved or eliminated.	Cases in project where child was in physical or psychological danger.	9 cases in 1976-1977 2 cases after 1977-1978	7 of the 1976-77 cases have been closed as the situation requiring close monitoring have been eliminated. 2 youths are still considered in high risk and are still being closely monitored by case workers.

EVALUATION OF 1976-1977 CASES (PROJECT'S FIRST YEAR) AFTER THE PROJECT'S SECOND YEAR 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
9. Minimize separation of siblings. Rationale: In the past little attention had been paid to keeping Indian siblings together - yet, it was felt that this was important for the child's security and stability.	Number and percent of placements in which siblings are not separated.	All children with siblings who were moved during the project year. (13 cases)	Same as first year -no change.	The 3 children that re-entered Foster Care System during the project's second year did not have siblings. This objective does not apply to them.

FOLLOW-UP

EVALUATION OF 1976-1977 CASEWORK AFTER THE PROJECT'S SECOND YEAR 1977-1978

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
1. Obtain new Indian Foster Homes. Rationale: In order to place more children in Indian environments, the project needed to obtain more licensed Indian Foster homes.	Number of new, licensed Indian Foster Care Homes.	New licensed Indian foster homes	8 new licensed Indian Foster homes were added during the project year, providing for 13 children. 1 of the new foster homes is for emergency placements. 4 potential foster homes are being processed.	There are now a total of 22 foster homes (14 were licensed by the county before the project). A total of 3 emergency homes exist (2 licensed before the project). 2 of these 8 foster homes were closed during the project's second year. One family moved out of state. One family was closed as a foster home at their request.

FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS

Results for four of the objectives indicated favorable increases, three remained stable and three had results that were less than those of the first project year.

The four objectives that indicated favorable increases were:

1. Maximize the number of children for whom a plan is made and implemented

   During the second year of the project, plans were defined and implemented for two more children, showing an increase in the first year's total of 4%.

2. Obtain permanent living situation status

   Two children were moved to permanent homes during the second project year, with no further moves anticipated, increasing the first year's total by 4%.

3. Improve the child's placement situation

   During the second year of the project, 14 (32%) children improved their living situation by moving to a higher step on the placement hairarchy.

4. Maximize reduction of high risk cases

   (Nine cases were removed from high risk status during the first year of the project. Seven of the children, when reassessed during the second project year, were "closed cases" because the situations that caused risk were eliminated. Two more cases were removed from high risk status during the second project year.)

The three objectives that had stable results during both the first and second years of the project were:

1. Maximize placement of Indian children in Indian environments

   The number of cases remained stable at 24 or 56%.

2. Minimize spearation of siblings

   The results remained exactly the same as the first year. (See Final Report - Year One).

3. Minimize length of limbo

   The average length of time a child remained in limbo (time of separation from family until permanent placement) was still 5 months.

Three objectives had results less than those achieved during the first project year:

1. Obtain new Indian foster homes
   Two of the eight foster homes licensed duirng the first project year closed - one family moved out of state, and one was closed at a family's request.
2. Maximize the number of voluntary placements
   Two of the three children who entered the project voluntarily during the first project year, returned home, and then reentered the project during the second project year.
3. Minimize frequency of moves
   One child, during the second project year, moved a third time.

Remarkable though it seems, figures show that most of the achievements made during the first project year were maintained or increased during the second year of the project.

A SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF THE SECOND PROJECT YEAR

These are brief highlights of the results achieved by the project in the three program areas:

Staff Development
Direct Child Welfare
Services and Resource Development

Subsequent pages provide detailed information regarding the degree to which each of the objectives for each area were achieved.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Two key measures focused on the amount of joint consultation between county and project staff regarding Indian children. County staff consulted with project staff in 94% of their cases. Project staff consulted with county staff regarding every case (100%).

Another measure dealt with the participation of project staff in joint training sessions with county staff. At one training session all of the project staff (100%) attended, and, at another, 75% of the project staff was in attendance.

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

- During the second project year, 31 cases of Indian children in foster care were served by the project.
- At the end of the project year, 26 or 84% of the children were in Indian environments.
- All, 31 or (100%) of the children have implemented placement plans.
- Thirteen or 42% of the children are in permanent placements with no further moves anticipated.
- Eighteen or 58% of the children have plans that lead to returning home, adoption or long term foster care.
- Thirteen or 42% of the children moved to a higher step on the placement heirarchy.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Seven new licensed Indian foster homes were added during the project year. Recruitment efforts for the first time were directed towards obtaining Indian adoptive homes. Five Indian adoptive homes were established, and three perscpective homes existed at the end of the second project year.

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
1. Maximize the number of cases on which county staff consulted with project staff. Rationale: One of the purposes of the project was to encourage county staff to use project staff as resource persons when working with Native American families. Training programs and other informal contacts were used to encourage county staff to seek consultation from project staff.	Number of cases on which consultation is held which was requested by county staff.	All active cases	29 cases out of 31 (94%)	

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
2. Maximize the number of cases on which project staff consulted with county staff. Rationale: Project staff were also encouraged to seek advise and recommendations from county staff, and to use them as consultants as needed.	Number of cases on which consultation was held which was requested by project staff.	All active cases	31 cases (100%)	In addition to the above 31 cases, there were 17 foster home consultations by the project's Foster Care/Adoption worker. 2 case consultations involving technical assistance from Minnesota D.P.W.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
3. Maximize participation in joint training sessions by project staff. Rationale: Joint training sessions were held to help county and project staff to get better acquainted and to help them discuss their common child welfare goals and practices. The purpose of the meeting was to enable these two groups of professionals to learn from each other.	Number and percent of project staff attending each training session.	All project staff	100% staff attendance at 2 training sessions. 75% staff attendance at 1 training session.	(1) One series of 6 workshops on the Adolescent sponsored by Cass Co. 10/25/77 weekly through 11/29/77. (100% project staff participation) (2) One Permanent Planning workshop sponsored by H.C.T. Social Services 1/27/78 (75% project staff participation) (3) One Sensativity Training workshop co-sponsored by Cass Co. and the H.C.T. Social Services 6/15/78 (100% project staff participation)

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FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
4. Maximize the participation in joint training sessions by county staff. Rationale: Both county and project staff were strongly encouraged to participate in these joint training sessions.	Number and percent of appropriate county staff attending each training session.	All county staff involved with the project.	Approx. 8 county staff attended workshops 10/25/77 thru 11/29/77. 18 county staff (from 4 counties) attended Permanent Planning workshop. 1/27/78 30 county staff attended workshop 6/15/78.	±75% county staff participation at one series of 6 workshops on Adolescents, sponsored by Cass Co. Social Services 10/25/77 thru 11/29/77. 4 counties attended Permanent Planning workshop sponsored by M.C.T. Social Services 1/27/78 5 counties attended the Sensativity Training workshop co-sponsored by Cass Co. and the M.C.T. Social Services 6/15/78

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FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
3. Maximize relevance of training sessions to staff needs. Rationale: Staff attended a variety of training sessions throughout the year. There are many local as well as state training sessions, conferences, and other opportunities for learning. This measure was designed to help identify which of these opportunities appeared to be most useful and relevant.	Percent of participants at each training session who perceive training as relevant.	Staff attending each training session	4 staff rated relevancy of training as 100% relevant. 1 staff rated relevancy of training as 86% relevant. (See Attached Matrix)	

MATRIX FOR OBJECTIVE #5

STAFF CODE	NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS	RELEVANCE
10	9 different kinds of workshops (total of 22 workshops) 1. One series of 6 workshops re: Adolescents 2. Marriage Counseling 3. Permanent Planning - 2 separate workshops 4. Adoption workshop 5. Family Sexual Abuse training - series of 7 workshops 6. Chemical Dependency 7. Indian Child Welfare & Title XX Amendment 8. Indian Families/Sensativity training 9. Social Services Workshops - 2 State Conferences	100%
20	8 different kinds of workshops (total of 14 workshops) 1. Adoption & Separation Issues - 3 workshops 2. One series of 6 workshops re: Adolescents 3. Marriage Counseling 4. Child Abuse 5. S.T.E.P.S. training 6. One 3 week training course - University of Minnesota 7. Chemical Dependency - 2 workshops 8. Indian Families/Sensativity training	86%
30	4 different kinds of workshops (total of 4 workshops in 4 months of employment) 1. Indian Families/Sensativity training 2. 3 week course at University of Minnesota re: Social Work/Mental Health Technicians 3. Indian Social Workers Conference 4. M.S.S.A. Conference	100%
40	6 different kinds of workshops (total of 6 workshops) 1. Midwest Regional Child Welfare League Conference 2. Violence in the Family 3. Family Sexual Abuse 4. Indian Social Workers Conference 5. Indian Families/Sensativity training 6. Crisis Intervention (1 qtr. of classes at Bemidji State Univ.)	100%
50	2 different kinds of workshops (total of 2 workshops in 4 months employment) 1. Indian Families/Sensativity training 2. M.S.S.A. Conference	100%

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
6. Maximize quality of social casework practice. Rationale: The evaluation for the first year focused primarily on results achieved rather than the techniques used to achieve these results. Six specific techniques were identified prior to the project as desirable in order to better ensure quality casework practice.	Number of cases in which criteria reflected in questions 11,12, 13,15a and 16 on Individual Data Sheet were met.	All children placed in foster homes or moved from one home to another during project year.	(See attached Matrix)	

Quality of casework practice applied to:

(1) Those children placed in foster homes during the project year.
(2) Those children moved from one home to another during the project year.

(1) Those children placed in foster homes during the project year:

Case #	Alternatives explored	Parents prepared for separation	Child's input solicited	Child made a pre-placement visit	Visitation plan for child
1060	yes	yes	no-too young	no	yes
1061	yes	yes	no-too young	yes	yes
1049	yes	yes	no-too young	no	yes
3073	yes	yes	no-too young	no	yes
3051	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
3066	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
5052	yes	yes	yes	no	no
5053	yes	yes	yes	no	no
5057	yes	yes	no-too young	no	yes
5064	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
5065	yes	yes	no-too young	yes	yes
Total	100% of cases	100% of cases	45% of cases	27% of cases	82% of cases

(2) Those children moved from one home to another during the project year:

Case #	Alternatives explored	Parents prepared for the move	Foster parents prepared for the move	Child's imput solicited	Child made a pre-placement visit	Visitation plan written
4045	yes	no-emergency move	yes	no	no	yes
4046	yes	no-emergency move	yes	no	no	yes
4047	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
4055	yes	no-N/A TPR	yes	yes	yes	N/A
4067	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
4068	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
4050	yes	no-N/A TPR	yes	yes	yes	N/A
3074	yes	yes	yes	yes	N/A	N/A
Total	100% of the cases	67% of cases where objective applies	100% of cases	55% of cases	57% of cases	100% of cases where applies

N/A = does not apply TPR = terminated parental rights

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
7. Maximize dissemination of information by project staff to general public and professional communities. Rationale: Training sessions presented by project staff to facilitate county professionals and the general public's understanding of (1) the project's goals and objectives; (2) to work toward their common child welfare goals and practices and (3) to get better acquainted with project staff.	Number of presentations given by project staff	All project staff	15 total presentations by project staff.	See attached Presentation Data Sheet.

PRESENTATION DATA CHART

DATE	SUBJECT	STAFF
10/28/77	Permanent Planning & Indian Children at Minnesota State Foster Parents Association	Project Supervisor and Foster Care/Adoption Worker
4/3/78 4/26/78 5/3/78 5/17/78 5/22/78	Indian Child and Welfare Services class at Bemidji State University	Project Supervisor
4/12/78	Indian Children & Foster Care at M.S.S.A., Duluth	Project Director, Supervisor and Foster Care & Adoption Worker
4/20/78 4/24/78 5/3/78	Permanent Planning for Cass Co. Social Services Staff	Project Supervisor
5/19/78	Indian Social Services and Title XX Amendment	Project Director
6/6/78	Indian Social Services & Self Determination (video taping)	Project Supervisor
8/22/78	Indian Human Services on Leech Lake Reservation	Project Foster Care Worker
9/12/78	Indian Social Services & the Court for Leech Lake Para-legal Staff	Project Supervisor
9/19/78	Economic Status of Indian Women and Issues	Foster Care Worker

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
1. Maximize placement of Indian children in Indian environments. Rationale: The primary purpose of the project was to return Indian children to Indian environments so that they do not lose touch with their cultural heritage.	Number and percent of children separated from families who are placed in Indian environments.	All cases (N-31)	26 cases or 84% of the Indian children are in Indian environments.	14 children are in Indian Foster homes. 2 children are in Indian Relatives homes. 9 children are returned to own home. 1 child adopted by Indian family. 26 total 5 children or 16% are in a non-Indian environment: 4 children are in non-Indian Foster homes 1 child was adopted by non-Indian family. 5 total

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
2. Maximise the number of voluntary placements.* Rationale: Voluntary placements are desirable because they indicate that parents were involved in the decision; they also make it easier for the child to be returned home.	Total number of voluntary placements.	All cases (N-31)	8 cases or 26% were voluntary placements	2 cases were voluntary placements during the project year. 6 cases were voluntary placements prior to the project's involvement.

* Voluntary placements - Placements which do not involve legal custody or termination of parental rights.

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
3. Maximize the number of children for whom a plan is made and implemented. * Rationale: It was determined that many children remained in limbo simply because there was no long range plan for them. The Project focused on developing a plan for each child with steps to permanent placement. As a result of developing these plans many of the steps identified were also taken during the project year.	Total number for whom a plan is implemented.	All cases (N - 31)	100% (31 individuals have implimented placement plans.)	42% or 13 individuals have plans that are permanent with no further moves anticipated. 58% or 18 individuals have plans defined and plans are in process.

* Plan - written plan with steps leading to return home or permanent placement.

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
4. Obtain permanent living situation status.* Rationale: Many children who were in foster homes lacked security because, although the homes were stable, there was no real assurance of permanency. The project endeavored to obtain a permanent living situation status for these children. In some instances, for example, staff helped the foster parents reach the decision to adopt the children or to agree to serve as permanent foster parents.	Total number who obtain permanent living situation status including those who returned to own home.	All cases (N = 31)	42% or 13 individuals	13 individuals have placements with no further moves anticipated. 9 individuals returned home 2 individuals adoptive homes 2 individuals in long term foster care placements. 58% or 18 individuals have plans in process where a move is anticipated toward -return home or -adoption- (17 individuals) -long term foster care -(1 individual.)

* Permanent living situation - Child is placed in adoptive homes, permanent foster homes, or own home with no further moves anticipated.

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
3. Improve child's placement situation. Rationale: In order to identify the types of preferred placements, the placement heirarchy was developed. At the top is return to own home, the most ideal situation. At the bottom is White Institution, the least desirable placement. Independent living situation appears fourth from the top on the heirarchy because, in most instances, the children being served by the project would benefit more from being adopted or returning to their own home than they would be establishing an independent living situation. It should be noted that this heirarchy is a way of identifying group placement goals. For a particular individual, a move downward on the heirarchy may be a positive move.	Number of children who move to a higher step on placement heirarchy. Placement Heirarchy: Own Home Indian Adoptive home White Adoptive home Independent living situation Relative placement Indian Foster Care White Foster Care Indian Group home White Group home Indian Institution White Institution	All cases (N = 31)	42% or 13 individuals	13 individuals moved up on the heirarchy: 1 White foster home to relative 4 White foster home to own home 3 White foster home to Indian foster home 2 Indian foster home to return home 1 Indian foster home to Indian adoptive home 1 White foster home to White adoptive home 1 White Group home to own home 6 moved down on heirarchy: 3 relative to Indian foster care 3 own home to Indian foster care 2 moved laterally: 2 White foster home to White foster home

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
6. Minimize frequency of moves. Rationale: Frequent moves spell insecurity to children, and may cause a number of problems. The project wanted to make every effort to stabilize each child's situation to prevent frequent moves.	Number of children who have been in three or more temporary placements to same or lesser status since the beginning of the project year.	All those who moved during project year. (N = 21)		(see objective #5) None of the 21 individuals who moved during the project year moved three times to the same or lesser status.

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
7. Minimize length of limbo. Rationale: Once separation of a child from his home becomes necessary, services must begin to "repair" the situation which necessitated the separation so that the child can return to his home. It is desirable to minimize the length of this separation to spare the child trauma. (Note that project workers could be held accountable for minimizing separation time only for those children who were removed from their homes during the project year.)	Average number of days (children who are separated from their families.)	All children who entered the foster care system (and hence project) during the project year.	5 children entered foster care during the project year. These children have averaged 5 mo. in foster care.	All 5 individuals have plans in process. None are considered in limbo.

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
8. Maximize reduction of high risk cases. Rationale: For the purposes of this project it was decided to define "high risk cases" as those requiring immediate attention because the child was in physical or psychological danger (had run away, was being abused, etc.). This measure is sensitive to the immediacy with which the worker acted, and the effectiveness of the services provided.	Number of cases removed from high risk file because situation causing risk has been improved or eliminated.	All cases (N = 31)	7 cases for 1977-1978	In all 7 cases the situation causing risk for the children have been eliminated.

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
9. Minimize separation of siblings. Rationale: In the past little attention had been paid to keeping Indian siblings together - yet, it was felt that this was important for the child's security and stability.	Number and percent of placements in which siblings are not separated.	All children with siblings who were moved during the project year. (15 cases)	Of the 15 children who moved during the project year 4 sibling sets were separated, 11 siblings were placed together.	Objective did not apply to 6 children. (did not have siblings)

FINAL EVALUATION
1977-78

PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

I. AGE (N=31)

A. Birth to 12 months = 0
12 months to 2 years = 1
2 years 1 month to 3 years = 1
3 years 1 month to 4 years = 3
4 years 1 month to 5 years = 0
5 years 1 month to 6 years = 3
6 years 1 month to 7 years = 3
7 years 1 month to 8 years = 2
8 years 1 month to 9 years = 3
9 years 1 month to 10 years = 2
10 years 1 month to 11 years = 2
11 years 1 month to 12 years = 2
12 years 1 month to 13 years = 0
13 years 1 month to 14 years = 0
14 years 1 month to 15 years = 2
15 years 1 month to 16 years = 2
16 years 1 month to 17 years = 2
17 years 1 month to 18 years = 3

B. 16 Males 15 Females

Number of males under 13 = 10
Number of males over 13 = 6
Number of females under 13 = 12
Number of females over 13 = 3

II. RELIGIOUS IDENTIFICATION

A. Catholic - 12 individuals
B. Protestant - 14 individuals
C. Traditional Indian - 2 individuals
D. Not Known - 3 individuals

III. RESERVATION ENROLLMENT (or affiliation if not enrolled)

A. Leech Lake - 16 individuals
B. White Earth - 6 individuals
C. Mille Lacs - 2 individuals
D. Nett Lake - 1 individual
E. Fond du Lac - 0
F. Grand Portage - 0
G. Sioux - 2 individuals
H. Ft. Frances Chippewa (Canada) - 4 individuals

IV. AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN FOSTER CARE

3 years 7 months average length of time in Foster Care, for total caseload of 31 children.
Average length of time in Foster Care for those children returned home or in another permanent situation (13 cases.) 4 years 9 months average length of time in Foster Care.
Average length of time in Foster Care for those children currently still in Foster Care (18 cases.) 2 years 9 months average length of time in Foster Care.

FINAL EVALUATION
1977-78

PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

V. SINGLE PARENT FAMILY DATA & 2 PARENT FAMILY DATA

11 children are from 2 parent families.
20 children are from single parent families.

6 children from single parent families are now in permanent living situations.
7 children from two parent families are now in permanent living situations.
13 total

14 children from single parent families are currently in Foster Care.
4 children from two parent families are currently in Foster Care.
18 total

VI. REASONS FOR SEPARATION

A. Voluntary Placement - 15 individuals (prior to project & during project) (48%)
B. Alcoholism - 22 individuals (71%)
C. Neglect/Dependency - 23 individuals (74%)
D. Abuse - 8 individuals (26%)
E. Delinquency - 2 individuals (6%)
F. Truancy - 0
G. Parents Incarceration - 1 individual (3%)
H. Other - 5 individuals (4 children-death of mother, 1 child-severely M.R.) (16%)

For those children returned home or in another permanent situation:

a. Voluntary Placement - 3 individuals
b. Alcoholism - 7 individuals
c. Neglect - 9 individuals
d. Abuse - 5 individuals
e. Delinquency - 1 individual
f. Truancy - 0
g. Parents Incarceration -
h. Other - 1 individual

For those children currently in Foster Care:

a. Voluntary Placement - 12 individuals
b. Alcoholism - 15 individuals
c. Neglect/Dependency - 14 individuals
d. Abuse - 3 individuals
e. Delinquency - 1 individual
f. Truancy - 0
g. Parents Incarceration - 1 individual
h. Other - 4 individuals

PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

VII. NUMBER FROM EACH GEOGRAPHICAL REGION

A. For those children who were returned home or in another permanent situation (N=13)

Region A	2 individuals
Region B	7 individuals
Region C	0 individuals
Region D	0 individuals
Region E	2 individuals
Region F	0 individuals
Region G	0 individuals
Region H	2 individuals

B. For those children who are currently in Foster Care (N=18)

Region A	0 individuals
Region B	2 individuals
Region C	0 individuals
Region D	5 individuals
Region E	0 individuals
Region F	2 individuals
Region G	1 individual
Region H	8 individuals

FINAL EVALUATION
1977-78

SUPPLEMENTAL MEASURES

I. Number placed in each category

A. Own Home - 9 individuals (29%)
B. Indian Adoptive Home - 1 individual (03%)
C. White Adoptive Home - 1 individual (03%)
D. Independent Living Situation - (0%)
E. Relative Placement - 2 individuals (07%) (2 awaiting return home)
F. Indian Foster Care - 15 individuals (48%) (14 awaiting return home, 1 long term F.C.)
G. White Foster Care - 3 individuals (10%) (2 awaiting return home, 1 long term F.C.)
H. Indian Group Home - 0 individuals
I. White Group Home - 0 individuals
J. White Institutions - 0 individuals

II. Average number of moves (N=31)

13 Individuals moved only once. (42%)
6 Individuals moved only twice. (19%)
6 Individuals moved only three times. (19%)
3 Individuals moved only four times. (10%)
3 Individuals moved only five times. (10%)

13 Individuals or 42% moved only once.
18 Individuals or 58% moved more than once.
* The average number of moves for the children who moved more than once is 3.2 moves.

III. Number of children who were returned home -now re-entered Foster Care.

None of the children who were returned home during the project's second year have re-entered the Foster Care System.

IV. Number of placements in each category: (at end of project year)

A. Protective Supervision - 0 individuals
B. Legal Custody - 14 individuals
C. Termination of Parental Rights - 7 individuals
D. Voluntary Placement - 10 individuals

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
1. Obtain new Indian Foster Homes Rationale: In order to place more children in Indian environments, the project needed to obtain more licensed Indian Foster homes.	Number of new, licensed Indian Foster Care Homes	New licensed Indian Foster Homes	7 new licensed Indian Foster Homes	A total of 15 Indian Foster homes were licensed within the projects two year period- (Licensing includes: project recruitment, processing of casework, and follow through to licensing by the county.) 8 foster homes were licensed in 1976-1977. 6 of these 8 Indian Foster homes are still licensed. 2 of the 8 were closed during the projects second year. (One family moved out of state, and the other was closed at their request.)

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
2. Maximize participation in Foster Parents Association Rationale: The Foster Parents Association provides an opportunity for foster parents to gather and discuss common problems and concerns with one another.	Number of foster homes which are represented in Foster Parents Association by individual(s) who join the organization and attend at least one meeting.	Present and prospective Indian foster parents		The objective was dropped during project year 1977-1978 due to the following statement from the Minnesota State Foster Parents Association. Project efforts were re-directed to the area objective #5. "Your request, as a representative of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, present us with a special situation. At this time, each of our chapters is affiliated through county associations. The inclination of the Board of Directors, when we have had inquires from private organizations, has been to encourage a single association within the county, on the premise that fragmenting of effort might make achievement of common broad goals more difficult to achieve."

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
3. Maximize participation in Family Development Committee by appropriate Native American Representatives. Rationale: The Family Development Committee was comprised of representatives of community organizations whose participation and cooperation are beneficial to the project.	Number of representatives who attend at least 2 or 3 meetings of Family Development Committee each quarter.	Representatives who are invited to participate on Family Development Committee		This particular committee was deleted, as such, during the project's second year. Efforts were re-directed into inter-facing between Indian community organizations. Inter-facing (the point at which two Indian community organizations meet and act on or communicate with each other) occurred between BIA, De-tox Center, Half-way House, Head Start and Reservation Youth Services Agencies. Formal agreements were developed and agreed upon where services between these respective agencies connect and hence interact.

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
4. Maximize utilization of community resources by project staff. Rationale: Efforts were made to acquaint project professional and paraprofessional staff with available community resources, and to use these resources as needed to help the foster children and their families.	Number of cases in which any of the following resources is used; Health Dept., Mental Health Center, Employment Services, RIA, Public Health, Courts, Community Health, CAP, Chemical Dependency and other related services.	All cases	5 cases utilized Bureau of Indian Affairs Services 6 cases utilized the County Sheriff's office 4 cases utilized the Indian Public Health Services 5 cases utilized Indian Education Program Services 4 cases utilized Indian Legal Aid 4 cases utilized School Systems 3 cases utilized Mental Health Center Offices 3 cases utilized Indian Housing Offices	All (31) cases utilized the County Social Services and the County Court System.

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
3. Maximize participation in foster care training sessions. Rationale: Foster Care training sessions were planned to provide information to foster parents which would help to improve their skills, and to answer questions which current and prospective foster parents had about foster care.	Number of foster homes represented by one or both parents at training sessions.	All Foster homes	6 training sessions were held during the project's second year. An average of 4 to 5 foster parents attended each training session.	11 foster parents total (or an average of 4 foster parents) attended the 3 training sessions dated: 2/28/78 3/7/78 3/14/78 15 foster parents total (or an average of 5 foster parents) attended the 3 training sessions dated: 5/16/78 6/22/78 6/24/78

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS:
6. Maximize appropriate representation on the Advisory Committee. Rationale: The Advisory Committee serves to provide direction to the project, and to monitor project activities, therefore, it is important to maintain consistent and quality representation.	Number of invited representatives who participate.	Number of representatives to serve on Advisory Committee	10 representatives attended the first meeting and 3 guests were present. 9 representatives attended the second meeting and 4 guests were present.	The meetings were held on January 24, 1978 and Nov. 3, 1978. Representatives on the committee include persons from: Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee County Social Services Directors County Social Services Supervisor Bemidji State University Minn. State Department of Public Welfare Minn. State University Region V Children's Bureau/ACYF Department of HEW - Children's Bureau-D.C.

FINAL EVALUATION 1977-1978

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	APPLIED TO	RESULTS	COMMENTS
7. Obtain New Indian Adoptive Homes. Rationale: In order to place more children in permanent Indian environments, the project needed to obtain more Indian Adoptive Homes.	Number of new Indian Adoptive homes on the State of Minnesota's Adoption Register	New Indian Adoptive Homes	5 Indian adoptive homes 3 perspective adoptive homes	This is a new objective, in that it was not an objective during the project's first year, 1976-1977.

A COMPARISON
of the
FIRST AND SECOND PROJECT YEARS

Within this section each program will be analyzed by comparing the results of the first project year with those of the second project year.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

There were 5 project staff during the first project year and 6 during the second.

During the second project year there was a dramatic increase in the number of cases on which county staff voluntarily consulted with project staff - 21 or 49% of the cases in year one compared with 29 or 94% of the cases during year two. This would seem to indicate that based on their experiences During the first year, county staff apparently found consultation with project staff helpful, and thus increased their contacts.

The project staff, during both years consulted with county staff regarding all cases.

Participation by the project staff in joint sessions with the county remained very high during both project years. During year one, 100% of the project staff attended the 3 joint training sessions; in year two, 100% of the project staff attended two of the sessions and 75% of the project staff attended the third session.

Participation by the county staff in joint sessions with the project staff also remained very high during both project years.

Project staff viewed their training sessions as being more relevant during year two than in year one.

The quality of social work practice remained constant during both project years. Project staff ensured that when a child was being moved from one situation to another, the parents or foster parents were prepared for the move; that alternatives were explored, when possible, the child's input was solicited, and a visitation plan was established.

Information about the project was presented by project staff to various public and professional audiences on fifteen (15) different occasions during the second project year.

DIRECT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

During the first year of the project the staff served 43 children, and during the second year, 31 children.

During the first project year, there were twice as many male cases as female. During the second project year, the number of male and female cases remained about the same. (Year two: 52% male - 48% female).

Children in the project during the second year had been in foster care for shorter lengths of time than those children served during the first year of the project.

Reasons for separation remained the same during both project years - alcoholism, neglect and voluntary placement.

Children served during the second project year were more apt to be from single parent families.

The number of children who were returned to their own homes or were placed in Indian foster homes increased during the second project year.

The number of children placed in white adoptive homes or in white foster care decreased in second year.

During the second year there was a dramatic increase in the percent of children placed in Indian environments. During year one, 26 of 43 cases or 57% of the children were placed in Indian environments. During year two, the 26 of 31 cases or 84% were placed in Indian environments.

The number of voluntary placements remained about the same during both project years.

An increase in the number of children having implemented placement plans occured during the second year. At the end of the first year 39 of 43 cases served or 91% had implemented placement plans; at the end of year two, all 31 cases served (100%) had implemented plans.

The number of children who obtained permanent living situation declined, from 39 of 43 cases or 91% during year one to 13 of 31 cases or 42% during year two. Of the children not permanently placed during the second year, 58% have plans in process towards adoption, returning home or long term foster care. Differences

in the length of time required for permanent placement in a relative's home as opposed to an adoptive home accounted for the differences between the first and second year results.

The number of cases who moved to a higher step on the placement heirarchy remained about the same during both project years

The number of moves each child experienced while in the project was minimized during both project years.

The average time a child remained in limbo between placements remained the same during both project years, at approximately 5 months.

The number of high risk cases was reduced during both project years.

During the second project year there was an increase in the number of siblings who were not separated during placement. In the first year, in 43% of the cases, siblings were placed together. During year two, in 73% of the cases, siblings were placed together.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The number of licensed Indian foster homes increased during both project years; 8 homes were licensed during the first project year and 7 during the second.

Project staff, during both project years, made referrals when appropriate to existing community resources.

Project staff provided training sessions for foster care parents that were well attended by the project's foster parents.

Advisory Committee meetings during both project years were well attended by representatives of the various disciplines and associations involved with the project.

A new objective was established during the second project year: Obtain new Indian adoptive homes. A total of 5 Indian adoptive homes were established; with another 3 perspective in existence by the end of the project.

Project and County Worker's Views of the Major Issues Surrounding the Project

The psychological and emotional atmosphere that surrounded the project during its two years of existence influenced the project's results.

Therefore, it is essential that the results are interpreted with a knowledge of the climate in which they occured.

During the course of the project, seven major issues challenged the beliefs and the experiences of both the project and county workers:

- The quality of communication between the project and county staff
- The involvement of Indian families with permanent planning
- The ability of staff to work with Indian people
- The amount of public relations work done with the Indian communities
- The process of making referrals for Indian people
- The jurisdiction over decisions regarding Indian children
- The needs of Indian people

A questionnaire regarding these issues was completed by seven project staff and sixteen county staff at the end of the project. Responses to the questionnaire are summarized on the following pages in order to 1)demonstrate the similarities and differences between the attitudes of project and county staff and to 2)serve as background information for those developing similar programs.

All the responses are divided into the following categories:

The Project Worker's Point of View

(a summary of all the project staff's responses)

The County Worker's Point of View

(a summary of all the county staff's responses)

A Quote

(a representative statement that expresses inner feelings about an issue)

Positive Results

(project and county worker's observations about good things that happened when they were confronted with an issue)

Unresolved Issues

(project and county worker's observations of things that still needed to be dealt with in order to feel comfortable with the issue).

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU VIEW THE COMMUNICATION LINES BETWEEN THE PROJECT AND COUNTY STAFF?

FROM THE PROJECT WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW:

"The communication lines are great between myself and the line workers at the county. All treat me with a great deal of respect, although at times I can sense they think I'm a bit of a "whipper snapper" and very naive with my expectations."

- a project worker

Positive Results	Unresolved Issues
Project and county staff treated each other with respect, and openly and honestly shared information about cases. County social workers made efforts to seek the consultation of project staff whenever decisions were being made.	Some county social workers were hesitant to make home visits with project staff. Some county workers did not get promptly involved with a new case. There was a tendency for county workers to be more concerned about the foster parents than the children.

FROM THE COUNTY WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW

"For the most part, I have found no real conflict between the philosophy of each worker with whom I have worked and my own.. If we do not agree, I have felt free to express my views and assume they have felt the same. Our exchanges have been of a friendly nature..."

- a county worker

Positive Results	Unresolved Issues
Project and county staff maintained open communication and shared mutual frustrations.	Information about a case could have been passed more promptly from project staff to county social workers.
The project staff was very accessible for planning and talking about clients.	The county social workers when more experienced than new, enthusiastic project staff, were less willing to make quick decisions about a case.
Project and county staff worked in an atmosphere of cooperation and trust.	County staff felt that project staff were reluctant to make decisions without the approval of their director.
The interest and involvement of the project staff with their cases, county worker and training sessions was evident.	Confusion existed when details in a case were changed and the county staff wasn't notified.
The county staff felt free to express different points of view.	

QUESTION:	HOW DO YOU VIEW THE INDIAN FAMILIES' RESPONSE TO BEING INVOLVED IN PERMANENT PLANNING WITH PROJECT STAFF?

FROM THE PROJECT WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW:

"In my opinion we run on the entire continuum of reactions. Overall, the Indian families' response has been overwhelmingly positive. We have received such a demand (self-referrals) that at times we've had to say no and use our resource referrals extensively. The reason for referring out is that we do not have the staff to handle the great number of requests.

On the other hand, if in our casework, we find ourselves in conflict with the wishes of a particular family (ex-foster parents who are possessive of their foster child so as to sabotage the return of the child home) the response has consistently been that they don't want to be involved with us and would rather deal only with the county social worker who understands them!!!"

- a project worker

Positive Results	Unresolved Issues
Due to the project, parents were able to participate in decisions that affected their child's future. Indian parents felt confident with an Indian organization "looking out" for their child.	To some parents, planning was not important. Some parents weren't able to plan, either for themselves, or their child.

FROM THE COUNTY WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW:

"I think the Indian families felt more comfortable having a project worker involved.

I think having an Indian worker made them feel that planning for their child was going to take into consideration their Indian heritage, and that the child was not going to be mainstreamed into white, middle-class America."

- a county worker

Positive Results	Unresolved Issues
Parents appreciated the involvement of Indian workers who they felt understood their feelings and attitudes. Parents, through involvement with planning, were better able to understand the legal ramifications of the decisions that were being made. County caseworkers were more easily accepted by an Indian family when they were accompanied by project staff on a client visit. The element of prejudice was eliminated when Indian families planned with project staff workers.	Parents were confused about the role and authority of project and county staff.

QUESTION: WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR POTENTIAL IN WORKING WITH INDIAN PEOPLE?

FROM THE PROJECT WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW:

"I feel that I can relate to my clients as an Indian a lot better than a non-Indian worker. I am able to see what is happening and why, a lot faster than a non-Indian. I feel that I can be more open with my clients and tell them exactly what is happening with them and their children because I have lived through the same thing."

- a project worker

Positive Results	Unresolved Issues
As a result of working with their own people, the project staff's level of commitment to the project increased. It was easy for project staff to relate with and understand their clients. The apprehension that existed before the project about working with problem children, disipated as the project continued. As a result of the project, project staff are deeply committed to developing a social service agency by and for Indians.	Parents were able to use their "Indianness" in manipulative, negative ways. Project staff were fearful of hurting people's feelings, and had difficulty being direct and confrontive with families.

FROM THE COUNTY WORKEP'S POINT OF VIEW:

"I found that working with Indians...is no much different than working with non-Indians, especially where children are concerned. Abuse and neglect are the same regardless of the culture from which a child comes. Perhaps the only difference is what renders "discipline", for example, or abuse, may be different in different cultural backgrounds, or the extended family is more involved in planning for the child than among non-Indian families."

- a county worker

Positive Results	Unresolved Issues
County staff realized that problems such as abuse and neglect are common to all cultures, and that there are as many differences between Indian people as there are between non-Indian people.	County staff feel a need to understand the ways that cultural values and traditions effect services to people.
County staff workers were able to examine their ideas and feelings about Indians by the way others interpreted and misinterpreted them.	Occasionally, a county worker became impatient when a client appointment wasn't kept, and frustrated when persons wouldn't fill out forms.
County staff were able to share their frustrations with project staff.	Friends and neighbors of an Indian family rarely offered information about the family.
Both project and county staff eventually lowered their expectations for "miracles" to occur as a result of the project.	Occasionally, experienced county workers became impatient with inexperienced project staff.
The project workers were able to follow-up on a case when the county worker was busy, resulting in faster solutions to family problems.	
County staff depended on project staff to interpret issues of a socially complex nature.	
The county staff expressed confidence in the staff's ability to provide social services to their people.	
County staff saw themselves as advocates for their clients by being helpful, respectful, supportive and accepting.	
Having project staff involved in foster parent recruitment increased the number of licensed Indian foster care homes.	

QUESTION: DO YOU FEEL ENOUGH GROUNDWORK OR PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK IS BEING DONE WITH THE INDIAN COMMUNITIES?

FROM THE PROJECT WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW:

"I think only a minimum of public relations work has been done on the Indian community level. I feel that we could well afford to do a massive public relations campaign at this level. However, if we do, we will then have to deal with the frustration that comes with not having adequate staff to meet the needs of our people. So it goes."

- a project worker

Positive Outcomes	Unresolved Issues
Foster parents who were prepared for the project were responsive, and understood its purpose. "Grass roots" public relations strategies were more effective than traditional organizational strategies. Project staff were able to reach and inform many Indian homes on the reservation through an article in the tribal newspaper.	Although a massive public relations campaign is needed, the size of the staff is too small to handle such an endeavor. Some members of the Indian community still view the project negatively.

FROM THE COUNTY WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW:

"I run into individuals who are unaware of social services. I feel a lot more could be done to make people aware of your services."

- a county worker

Positive Outcomes	Unresolved Issues
The project staff first defined their roles and lines of communication with agencies, staff and other authorities, before spreading the word about the project. Due to a "grass roots" knowledge about the project, clients often made their initial contact with the project through a "walk in" visit. The possibility of a joint public relations campaign, featuring client service visits from both county and project staff exists.	Indian people living in predominantly white communities have very little knowledge of the project or social service programs that are available. Information about the existence of educational and financial assistance programs for Indians is not widespread. Many of the county caseworkers were unaware of the public relations activities carried on by project staff. The project needs to create an image with the professional and business communities within the immediate area, especially the school systems. Confusion exists about the services available to Indian people and how these services relate with already existing agencies. Non-Indians in the community are unaware of services that the county provides. It is difficult to plan long range public relations activities for a project when the funding is indefinite.

QUESTION:	HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR ROLE IN GIVING INDIAN PEOPLE REFERRAL SERVICES AND MAKING PROPER CONTACTS FOR THEM?

FROM THE PROJECT WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW:

"Limited referral service. Success rate unknown, but guessing about 50%."

- a project worker

Positive Outcomes	Unresolved Issues
Before a visit was made from a contact person, project staff prepared the client for the visit, and were present when the visit occured.	The lack of an organized resource file often delayed client referrals.

FROM THE COUNTY WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW:

"I feel that each case is individual, and if they were able to make appointments and contact for themselves, I would discuss with them who I felt it would be advisable for them to be involved with. If at any time they ask that I make a contact for or with them, I would do so if at all possible."

- a county worker

Positive Outcomes	Unresolved Issues
A referral was more successful when the person referred him/herself. Referrals of Indians to the project are easier to make because it is an Indian organization. Since the existence of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Social Services, caseworkers are more apt to refer clients to them, rather than to another agency. Participation of project staff in a case is key to maintaining the trend away from intervention (taking children out of their cultural environment). Clients have an opportunity due to the project, to accept services from the project, the county, or a combination of both.	There is a reluctance on the part of Indians to use resources due to a lack of knowledge about the resources and a reluctance to deal with a new resource that might be predominantly white. Court ordered services, for which the Tribe or project is responsible, often create a negative attitude in the client. Services provided by the project have made clients more dependent on the project by having the project responsibility for the problem.

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU VIEW YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PROJECT AND COUNTY WORKERS AS FAR AS THE QUESTION OF JURISDICTION IS CONCERNED?

FROM THE PROJECT WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW:

"With some workers, I see them relieved because we are handling the situation and because they are backed by an Indian organization. In the cases where there is too much control, maybe it's because we let them...Maybe we should request custody in all cases, before we officially work a case."

- a project worker

Positive Results	Unresolved Issues
The question of jurisdiction over licensure of foster homes has been resolved.	The project workers are willing to handle the total case load, do the leg work, etc. and yet the county workers can negate the decisions made by project staff. This in turn damages project staff morale. Project staff has the freedom to work on a case as long as they don't make decisions without informing the county worker.

FROM THE COUNTY WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW:

"My experience has recognized no particular problems in this area. It seems the project has been accepting of our role as a child protection agency, and we have been able to work out roles in that respect. Each state must designate an agency to be responsible for carrying.out services such as child abuse/neglect. The county social services agency happens to be it. Because Indian clientele are citizens of the United States, I believe they should be under the same law system as the rest of the population. In other words I am personally not in favor of 'closed' reservations."

- a county worker

Positive Results	Unresolved Issues
Even though project workers were placed in a "second place" position, both the project and county staffs were able to maintain a working relationship based on an equal division of labor and responsibility. What could have been a difficult area that hampered service by either agency, was kept to a pleasant minimum due to the effort and understanding of all those involved. Both the project and county staff learned to compromise in order to promote the best interests of the child.	Legal jurisdiction under current Minnesota statute resides with the county. Philosophical jurisdiction resides with the project staff. The legal jurisdiction in a case, can supercede the philosphical jurisdiction. Guidelines need to be developed specifying areas of responsibility regarding specific situations, within a specific time frame. The financial responsibility for a client which is assumed by the county remains a barrier to full Indian jurisdiction over Indian social services.

QUESTION: HAS YOUR AWARENESS INCREASED AS TO THE NEEDS OF INDIAN PEOPLE?

FROM THE PROJECT WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW:

"My awareness has increased greatly. First and foremost, I see our people gradually realizing the potential to be able to do for ourselves, i.e. - jobs, housing, social services, education. For some of the grass roots level people the depression is still prevalent, however, this depression in poverty is not as extensive as I had originally thought it would be. The basics are defined and as a people, we are now beginning the long road to Indian self-determination. It's a long road because at this time our tribe does not produce revenue to meet the needs and services that are necessary. At this time, we economically depend on federal and state funding. Losing these funding sources creates set-backs that can be frustrating."

- a project worker

Positive Results	Unresolved Issues
Indian people are realizing their potential by assuming more responsibility in the areas of housing, jobs, socjal services and education. When working with individuals on a reservation, a worker's personal awareness, sensitivity and disconcernment become more finely sharpened.	The tribe does not produce enough revenue to meet the needs and services that are necessary. Currently, the tribe depends on federal and state funding. Losing sources of funding creates set-backs that cause frustrations. Many Indian people are unaware of their rights as parents, or their rights as individuals. There is a need for more job availability, housing, health services and knowledge about the effect of chemical dependency on Indian families. There is a need for education, re-education of parenting skills and money management. A convenient office, providing AFDC, Food Stamps and General Assistance is needed by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Social Services in order to meet the needs of the people.

FROM THE COUNTY WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW:

"I am at this time more fully aware of the need to keep Indian children with Indian families whether involved with foster placement, relative placements or whatever other living situation necessary for the child's welfare. Years ago, this agency as well as myself did not think it necessary to continue the Indianness. We have certainly changed our minds, feelings concerning this, and I credit the Project staff with assisting us."

- a county worker

Positive Results	Unresolved Issues
The project enabled Indian people to feel the understanding generated by an Indian worker. County workers gained an understanding about the importance of the extended family in childrearing, and the difficulties and pressures involved in being a minority person. An awareness of human needs common to all persons has been realized by the county workers. The county staff learned about the Indian culture through contact, experience, sometimes confrontation and direct interaction. Knowledge about the dynamics of the Indian community and the Indian family has made it easier to discard white, middle-class solutions to the problems. As a result of the project, it has become apparent that the need for permanence and a feeling of belonging is as important to an Indian child as it is to anyone else.	Some caseworkers believe that the needs of Indian people are not that different than the needs of non-Indian people. Some county workers know little about the customs, traditions and values of the Indian culture. The cross cultural issues provide an excuse for the client not to deal with his/her problem and the worker not to deal with the issue directly.

IMPACT STATEMENT

Within a period of two years, the project staff and county staff combined energies to develop, implement, maintain, improve on, and expand a revolutionary method of serving Native American foster children.

The project was successful in returning Indian children to Indian environments, establishing permanent placement plans, improving the child's placement status and developing new resources for placement by licensing Indian foster and adoptive homes.

From results of the two-year Leech Lake American Indian Foster Care project it may be concluded that:

- Native American professionals and county professionals can work in unison to provide quality services for Native American children.
- When native American caseworkers are involved in the caseloads of Indian children
  - the incidence of placement in Indian environments is greatly increased.
  - the number of voluntary placements of children in alternate home environments in increased.
  - the incidence of a permanent placement plan is greatly increased.
  - the number of children moving to an improved placement situation is increased.
  - the frequency of moves is reduced.
  - the number of Indian foster and adoptive homes increases (a project worker was instrumental in developing standards for licensing Indian foster homes).
- Native Americans, when responsible for their own social services, are able to develop, implement, maintain, improve on, and expand services to meet the needs of their people.

The project was also successful in gaining the respect of others.

In 1978, the project was awarded the National Association of Counties Achievement Award.

Project and county staff testified in Washington at a House Subcommittee on Indian affairs and Public Lands and described the project. William Cady, Cass County Supervisor reported:

> "The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe has the capacity and professional expertise to immediately assume responsibility for Indian child welfare services on the Leech Lake Reservation and we in Cass County would strongly support such a plan should it become legally and financially possible."

Head of the National Center for Child Advocacy, Helen V. Howerton stated:

> "We were pleased that Minnesota chose to support the Minnesota Chippewa Project. Our understanding is that its success has been significant...and that there is potential that the project could become a model for other Chippewa Tribal social service programs."

In conclusion, the project's goals were accomplished and the project was well respected by others. Yet, funding for the project has been discontinued. One county worker responded:

> "I'm feeling anger - anger at a system such as this one that can find grants to study such important subject as the sex life of king crabs, yet forces proven human services to jump through hoops and play games for survival."

It is important that the knowledge and experience gained by all those involved with the project is utilized, and not wasted.

Other tribes will be able to replicate the project model to develop quality social services for their children.

Statewide applicability of the project is feasible, not only for reservation families, but urban families as well. The possibility of nationwide applicability of the project also exists.

Yet, unless the issue of jurisdiction is resolved, limited funding will continue to ensure that projects such as this are short-lived.

The project staff feel that the time has come for the United States to empower tribes with jurisdiction over decisions regarding Native American children. Once this is accomplished, funding can be firmly established and long-term quality planning for Indian children can become a reality, rather than a hope. Until then, the destinies of Native American children will remain in unfamiliar hands.